

Citizens' Health Care Working Group. The panel did groundbreaking work to bring the American people together to confront the health care crisis and facilitated the direct communication of their views and concerns to lawmakers. His leadership on the panel established Hansen as a key leader and trusted advisor to Congress and the Obama administration on the primary health care issues facing working families and the elements of comprehensive health care reform.

Hansen is the Founding National Chair of the National Commission on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Misconduct and Violations of 4th Amendment Rights. The commission examined ICE misconduct during the Bush administration's workplace raids. It presented the findings to the American people in a report that documents the terrible costs and human suffering caused by ICE misconduct and outlined key elements of needed immigration policy reforms.

Hansen is a founding architect of the Change to Win Federation that has set a new course for the labor movement. Recognizing that industry-wide organizing is the best way to give workers the power to raise working and living standards, Hansen is leading the UFCW through a dramatic shift in priorities as more staff and resources than ever before are dedicated to uniting workers and bringing them under a union contract.

At the core of Hansen's leadership is the spirit and exuberance that he demonstrated as a young volunteer organizer and activist. He knows that activated members can organize, that they can build their union, and that they can confront corporate power and win. After all, Hansen did all of those things as a rank-and-file member—today he is activating and leading a new generation of workers and building a 21st century union.

#### 50TH ANIVERSARY OF AEROSPACE CORPORATION

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Aerospace Corporation's 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago the United States Congress had the foresight to create the Aerospace Corporation, a federally funded research and development center.

The Aerospace Corporation doesn't make the things that orbit in space. It makes the things that orbit in space work properly, and helps get them there safely.

The Aerospace Corporation has been involved in every Defense Department space program since 1960. From blueprint to launch and system architecture, the Aerospace Corporation is the Pentagon's technical conscience, its independent math checker.

The Aerospace Corporation has played a key role in developing and maintaining the space systems Americans and people around the world now take for granted, like GPS and weather satellites. And it makes sure the launches of those satellites are safe and successful.

Fifty years after its creation, we need The Aerospace Corporation more than ever.

The United States is at a crossroads in space. China launched a shot across our bow in 2007 when it destroyed a satellite in low-Earth orbit. That sent me a very clear message. While the United States may still enjoy superiority in space, we're no longer the only player.

We must protect our space assets, and build a constellation of robust, redundant, low-cost communication, navigation and reconnaissance satellites that can withstand an attack or a catastrophic accident. If we don't start now we are going to be too late.

We not only need a new generation of spacecraft, we need a new generation of space engineers.

Our space workforce is aging. Some 60% of aerospace workers are over age 50, and almost 26% are eligible for retirement this year. Not enough young scientists and engineers are signing up to take their place.

While the United States graduates 70,000 engineers, a meager 15 percent of our college graduates every year, China graduates more than half a million.

China has decided the most important asset to a space program and its future as a super power is human capital—the scientists, engineers, and technicians that design and build satellites, rockets, and space vehicles.

And while we struggle to educate enough engineers to keep up internationally, we're losing many of them to the sexy new world of Internet technology.

It used to be that being a rocket scientist was synonymous with genius. Now it seems that mantle has slipped onto the shoulders of those who invented Facebook, eBay and Google.

If we want to continue to be the world's leader in space, we have to get our young people to dream again—dreaming out of this world, literally. We need to inspire our young people the same way President Kennedy did nearly 50 years ago when he committed the United States to winning the space race.

I've lived through a half century of U.S. space superiority. Only with sustained focus and leadership will my kids and grandchildren enjoy another half century of U.S. dominance. At this milestone, let us chart a path to that century.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORING PROTECTION TO VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. WATSON of California, to end a part of our immigration system that has denied protection to those who need it the most. The Restoring Protection to Victims of Persecution Act ends the practice of barring asylum claims by those who have been in our country for more than a year.

Enacted as part of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, the one-year bar to asylum has failed. Instead of preventing fraudulent asylum claims as intended, the one-year limitation has turned away individuals who would most benefit from

sanctuary. A disproportionate number of these immigrants are women who are the targets of gender-based persecution, including domestic violence, female genital cutting, and "honor" crimes.

Although the law includes exceptions to excuse those who are determined to have valid reasons for applying for asylum after one year, adjudicators routinely deny applicants who meet these exceptions. People who are attempting to care for their children, hide from their abusers, cope with past trauma, and deal with the challenges of surviving in a new country are repeatedly and arbitrarily denied asylum status because of missing the one-year deadline.

Once denied, an applicant has only two other possibilities for safety: to petition for withholding of removal or to seek protection under the Convention Against Torture. Both these forms of relief demand an applicant surmount a much higher standard of proof than asylum and never provide them permanency or allow reunification with family members.

I also thank my colleague, Mr. ORTIZ, for introducing a comprehensive immigration reform bill that includes language to end the one-year bar. I hope that by giving this issue its own legislation, Congress can move swiftly to help these victims who are being turned away every day. Since its enactment in 1996, more than 35,000 people have been denied asylum solely because of the one-year bar.

As a country, we pride ourselves in our advocacy for democracy and human rights around the world. Please join us in supporting this bill so that we can prove we are as good as our word.

#### HONORING AL SHUR: LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, in his more than four decades of union activism, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569 Business Manager Al Shur has earned a well-deserved reputation as labor's "greenest" leader.

Al, a member of IBEW since 1967, quickly distinguished himself through his political involvement as a rank-and-file member. His activism eventually led him to serve on Local 569's executive board until being elected business manager in 1995.

As business manager, Al has supported development and construction that focuses on improving job quality, the community and the environment.

Under Al's leadership, IBEW Local 569 has been an outspoken advocate for responsible, sustainable development, as well as serving as a model for using green technologies in the construction industry.

IBEW Local 569's offices and training center proudly display a vast network of solar panels which allow the union to operate almost completely free of a traditional power grid.

Al has also worked tirelessly to build relationships with San Diego's environmental leaders through his work with organizations such as the Apollo Alliance, the Environmental Health Coalition and San Diego Coastkeeper.